

***TOWN OF NEWFIELDS BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
TUESDAY, AUGUST 21, 2007***

The meeting was called to order at 6:38pm. Selectmen present were: Michael Woodworth, James McIlroy, and Wes Moore. Others present were: Chief Reed, Peter Allen, and Reuben Hull.

Chief Reed advised that the DWI and Speed Grants will continue for three more weeks. The Alcohol Compliance checks will start this weekend.

Chief Reed received a letter from the State denying the Town's application for funds to repair the problems causing flooding on Bald Hill Road. The Chief spoke with a representative from the State and advised that a Hazardous Mitigation Plan is in the process of being put together. With that information, the State will send out a new application to be completed and they will re-visit the request for funds.

At this time the Town still has two part-time police officers. It will be another week or so until the final test is taken by applicants for part-time positions. Anyone hired will not be able to attend the Police Academy until January, but will be able to do FTO until then. A former part-time officer is meeting with the Chief and Lieutenant about being re-hired.

Illegal trash dumping has taken place at the Town Hall. Chief Reed suggests locking the dumpster and this is agreeable with the Selectmen. The Chief will take care of obtaining the necessary locks and make sure that a key is available at the Town Office. Nancy was asked to call Bestway Disposal to advise them of this change. She was also asked to contact Brian Knipstein about picking up the illegally dumped air conditioner and storing it until the October Clean Up Day.

The meeting went into a non-public session at 6:47pm per RSA91-A:3II.

The meeting went back into a public session at 7:24pm.

Peter Allen met with the Selectmen to discuss two issues. He has a "market garden" and would like to set up a mobile stand in front of his home on Main Street. Reuben Hull stated that this is not allowed in the area of his home – the Village District. Peter could sell items from the back of his property, but must apply to the Zoning Board for a special variance. Any advertising signage would be limited to two square feet.

Peter also asked for approval to hold a "Farmers Market" in the Town Hall parking lot on Saturdays between April and October. He stated that he can set himself up as an organization, determine the parameters of the vendors (Newfields residents only, high-end produce, craft items, etc.). Peter would like to start holding the Farmers Market immediately.

The Selectmen are not ready to rush into this as they need to review the pros and cons, research needs to be completed, is this the best location for a Farmers Market, insurance needs have to be determined, the amount of rent, etc. Wes feels that 2008 would be a better starting date, giving the Selectmen time for necessary research and review.

Chief Reed does not feel that there will adverse affect to holding a Farmers Market at the Town Hall parking lot. He feels it is a great idea and supports it. He and Peter previously discussed issues about keeping the area clear for police cruiser access.

Peter would also like to start a Community Sponsored Association where individuals buy shares to obtain fresh produce from a community farm during the growing season. He mentioned that there is a very successful CSA in Brentwood. Peter will keep the Selectmen informed of the information he receives on this project.

Reuben Hull asked if Peter would be willing to work on the agriculture portion of the Master Plan. Wes mentioned that there is an opening on the Planning Board. Reuben gave Peter a brief description of the Planning Board duties. Peter will attend the next Planning Board Meeting and look at the information on the website before making a final decision on becoming a member.

Reuben gave an update on the handrails for the handicap ramp – they will be arriving tomorrow and the ramp itself is ready for the handrail installation.

Reuben had some questions regarding the original cell tower agreement. The Selectmen entered into an agreement with the cell tower company and then turned everything over to the Water and Sewer Department. James suggested that Reuben review the Warrant Article on the cell tower and the files in the Town Office.

Reuben stated that if expanding the current tower does not work, the company may present plans for another tower. Any additional tower could be in the same location or another location in Town.

The Rockingham Planning Commission is still working on the Hazardous Mitigation Plan for the Town of Brentwood. Newfields is next on the list to have a Plan completed and this should be done in the next six months.

The Public Hearing held regarding commercial zoning in the vicinity of Route 108 in Newfields was discussed.

Michael mentioned that the Planning Board Members would appreciate receiving information pertaining to the meeting in advance so that they have the time to review items before the meeting begins. Reuben will try to get the information out earlier.

Reuben asked to be kept informed of the Budget Advisory Committee meetings so that he may incorporate the Capital Improvement Plan with the various departments.

James asked Nancy to contact Primex regarding the Crime Program Insurance Application. Does the Town really need to complete this and return it to Primex? Also, the expiration date does not coincide with the Town's insurance policies.

James asked Nancy about the visit from Primex Claims Control scheduled for August 10th. The representative cancelled the visit that day and will re-schedule when he is in the area.

Wes advised that Jackie Horgan of the Dispatch Advisory Committee called to update him on their work. Only two members of the Committee attended the tour at Newmarket Dispatch. Wes asked Jackie to make sure that all members of the Committee are able to attend a tour before scheduling a date. It is important that all members receive the same information from either dispatch centers or other people providing information.

Michael Kahlke volunteered to serve on the Budget Advisory Committee. He has been a resident of Newfields for thirteen years. James made a motion to appoint Michael Kahlke as a member of the Budget Advisory Committee. Wes seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

A resident asked for timely posting of Selectmen's Meeting Minutes. "Draft Versions" of the minutes need to be available 144 hours after the meeting. The Selectmen will continue to provide draft versions of the minutes at the Town Office no later than 144 hours after the close of the meeting.

Wes is still working with the Local Government Center on the Discretionary Easement questions.

The Personnel Policy needs to be reviewed at another meeting. Wes will review the information received from the labor law attorney at that meeting.

Wes made a motion to approve the Minutes of the August 7, 2007 meeting as amended. Michael seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

The MS-1 Summary Inventory of Valuation Form 2007 was signed by the Selectmen.

The MS-4 Revised Estimated Revenues was reviewed by the Selectmen.

The discussion on health and dental insurance for part-time employees was tabled until Nancy receives additional information from the Town's insurance carrier.

The minutes of the Transportation Advisory Committee were reviewed.

The draft of the Newfields School District – Tax Impact Analysis was reviewed.

Correspondence from Homeland Security and Emergency Management was reviewed and Nancy was asked to provide a copy of the letter to the Police Chief.

Oil bids were reviewed. No bid was received from the current provider and Nancy was asked to contact them.

Correspondence from the Lane Law Offices was reviewed.

The United States Department of Commerce has asked the Town of Newfields to participate in the 2010 Decennial Census Local Update of Census Addresses Program. The Town respectfully declines to participate because of insufficient staffing.

The minutes of the Dispatch Advisory Committee were reviewed.

Correspondence from Plodzik & Sanderson was reviewed.

The invitation from the Newmarket Town Council to the Selectmen to attend a farewell to Al Dixon was reviewed.

Nancy advised the Selectmen that Jay Somers of Comcast expects to have the renewal contract to the Town for signing next week.

Michael Bachand of Concepts In Benefits advised Nancy that the contract should be at the Town Office next week for signature. This contract is for the Section 125 Premium Reduction Plan.

Jed Rumford asked that the Selectmen be informed of a couple of trees next to the parking lot at the Town Hall that should be removed. One tree is completely dead, another one is dying. These should be taken down before they fall onto a vehicle. Nancy was asked to contact the Road Agent about removing these trees.

Correspondence from the New Hampshire Department of Safety regarding the Pre-Disaster Mitigation Competitive Grant Program was reviewed and a copy was given to the Town Planner.

Wes made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:53pm. James seconded the motion and the motion passed with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy J. Spencer
Administrative Assistant